Revenue Loss Due to Shifting of Serials from DD-2 to DD-1

*40. SHRI CHIMNBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:
SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total revenue earned by Doordarshan from the serials shifting from 8.30 P.M. slots of DD-2 to 10.30 P.M. slots of DD-1 channel during the last two months as compared to revenue earned by Doordarshan in the months of March and April, 1995;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is an anticipated revenue loss of several crores to the Doordarshan in the near future; and

(c) if so, what steps /measures are being taken to put back these popular serials on some prime time slots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The details are as follows:—

May-June, 1995—Rs. 370.93 lakhs

March-April, 1995—Rs. 551.66 lakhs

(b) and (c) It is too early to predict the financial impact of the redesigned programme format which came into effect from 2nd June, 1995.

Removal of Excise Duty on Newsprint

139. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of Newspaper industry have asked the Government to take up with State Governments for removal of State excise duty on newsprint;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) No State excise duty is charged on newsprint produced in the country.

Complaints of Indian Television Companies

140. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Doordarshan CNN tie-up has invited complaints from Indian television companies;

(b) whether such tie-up may ultimately destroy Indian values and culture;

(c) whether opening up of skies to foreign companies goes against the verdict of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and reasons for not seeking approval of Parliament on such an important matter and whether it is proposed to review the agreement and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to newspaper reports to this effect

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no proposal to review the agreement which was entered into after obtaining the requisite approvals.

Export of Cotton

141. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have remitted export of 68,000 bales of cotton during 1995-96 in spite of severe shortage in its production this year in the country;

(b) whether as a results the prices of cotton yarn are rising and the textiles mills and handloom sector are facing a lot of difficulties; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Government has released an additional export quota of 68,000 bales of staple cotton for export in June, 1995 for the 1994-95 cotton season. Production of cotton in 1994-95 season is estimated to be around 130 lakh bales which is more than last year's production of 121.50 lakh bales.

(b) No, Sir, the average prices of cotton yaran, used by the Handloom sector and texile mills declined during the months of June and July' 95 as compared to the previous months.

(c) Question does not atise.

Working of ITDC Hotels in the Country

142. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation propose to set up task forces and steering committees to achieve the total quality management, work culture and internationalise its style of operations

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and who will be the members;

(c) whether Government have examined the working of the ITDC hotels in the country and particularly in Delhi; and

(d) if so, what are the details of irregularities and incidents of crimes and mismanagement which have come to Government's notice in respect of each ITDC hotel during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up one Steering Committee and Nine Task Forces in order to revise/up-date existing systems and procedures in line with the modern management requirements. The names of Members for these Committees are yet to be decided.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During last three calendar years (1992, 1993 and 1994), few cases of irregularities and mismanagement in different hotels of ITDC, came to the notice of the Government. These are related to misuse of officials position for personal gains, doing private business, cheating of customers, non recovery of dues from shopkeepers, corruption and protecting rent defaulters, etc.

During the same period one case of murder took place in ITDC's hotels when on 13.7.1992 a guest was murdered in Lodi Hotel, New Delhi.

CBI Raids on Doordarshan Office

143. SMT. KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in June, 1995 CBI raided Doordarshan offices at Mandi House,